Action taken against Newspapers.

270. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government the pleased to furnish a statement containing the following information:—

(*a*) the names of the various newspapers which have been either warned or against which any action has been taken or proposed to be taken since the passing of the Newspapers Regulation;

(*b*) the name and purport of the articles for publishing which the papers were so warned or the action was taken; and

(*c*) the date of the publication of each article and the date of the action taken against each, whether it be a warning or any other kind of action?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) No warning was given or other action taken against any newspaper other than the "*Navasakti*", referred to in the answer to the member's interpellation No. 102, given at the meeting of the Council held on the 25th November 1926. The warning to the printer and publisher of that newspaper was issued on the 24th July 1926.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the purport of the article for which the "*Navasakti*" has been warned?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I have referred the member to the answer which has already been given to an interpellation, the number of which is quoted there.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): But that answer is very unsatisfactory and it does not contain all the information that I wanted in my question.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer was given to the interpellation No. 102 by Mr. Nilakanta Pillai himself.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): But my question is:

Will the Government be pleased to furnish a statement containing the following information:—

(*a*) the names of the various newspapers which have been either warned or against which any action has been taken or proposed to be taken since the passing of the Newspapers Regulation;

(*b*) the name and purport of the articles for publishing which the papers were so warned or the action was taken;

and I did not get any answer for that.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The answer for that also is contained in the answer to question No. 102.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the purport of the article for which the "*Navasakti*" was warned?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The previous answer contains the answer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): It does not.

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The member may read the answer.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Will the member please read that answer.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The question then raised was

> Will the Government be pleased to state whether they took any action in respect of an article in the "Navasakti" and, if so, what action and in respect of what article and the reasons for taking such action?

The answer was:

> In respect of the leading article under the heading ഓട്സ് ഔഷധം published in the issue of the "Navasakti", dated the 15th Mithunam 1101, the Government issued a warning to the printer and publisher of the newspaper, as the Government were satisfied that the article offended against the provisions of sub-section (i) of Section 5 of Regulation V of 1101.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): The answer does not contain the purport of the article for which it was warned.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The purport of the article is "ഓട്സ് ഔഷധം"

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the offence committed by that article against the provisions of the Newspapers Regulation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not asked here.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I raise it as a supplementary question.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Well, it has also been answered. The answer says that the Government were satisfied that the article offended against the provisions of sub-section (i) of Section 5 of Regulation V of 1101.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know the nature of the offence, as I cannot make out the same from that answer?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Regulation is available to the member as well as to myself.

MR. K. P. NILAKNTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether attacking an officer in his public capacity is an offence under the Newspapers Regulation?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a matter in which legal opinion will have to be sought.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Had the Government any occasion to think about it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I do not understand the question.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Government had any occasion up to now to think about the question whether when a paper attacks an officer in his public capacity it offends against the Newspapers Regulation?

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MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): That is a general question and so it does not arise. But in this particular case the offence committed was against the provisions contained in sub-section (i) of Section 5 of the Newspapers Regulation.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): May I know whether the Newspapers Regulation is intended to satisfy personal vengeance?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I decline to answer that question.

Government Servants who are Reporters to Newspapers.

271. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether there are persons in the Government service who are reporters and contributors to newspapers; and

(*b*) whether it is permissible for Government servants to contribute to newspapers praising, adversely criticising or reviewing the administration of the State as a whole for a period or a particular measure?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) There was a Government clerk who until recently was the regular correspondent of the "*Madras Mail*". He has now been ordered to sever all connections with that newspaper.

(*b*) The member is referred to the Resolution of Government, dated the 21st January 1888, and Notification dated the 7th April 1891 regarding the position of Government officers as correspondents, etc., of newspapers, published at pages 130 and 328 of the issues of the *Government Gazette* dated the 21st February 1888 and 14th April 1891, respectively.

Endorsement on Memorial to His Excellency the Viceroy from Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.

272. **MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI** (*Chirayinkil*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that an endorsement given to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, Member, Legislative Council, Trivandrum, on the telegram which he had sent to His Excellency the Viceroy, regarding Mr. Mathan's action in Chengannur, has been received in the Huzur Secretariat, and, if so, what has happened to it?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No such endorsement addressed to Mr. K. P. Nilakanta Pillai, Member, Legislative Council, Trivandrum, has been received by the Government in the Huzur Secretariat.

MR. K. P. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): I may point out a mistake earlier. I did not say in my interpellation whether an endorsement addresed to Mr. "K. P." Nilakanta Pillai was received in the Secretariat, but whether an endorsement addressed to Mr. Nilakanta Pillai was received there.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): However, this is what I find in the question.

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